

2 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Bross

SUBJECT: SIGINT Collection Requirements

The revised SIGINT collection requirements, dated 29 October 1969, are somewhat difficult to follow and, more importantly, do not provide satisfactory guidance. Their presentation is outlined in the attached chart. They start with very broad and overlapping needs, progress to generalized requirements (which are primarily technically oriented), and conclude with specific requirements and priorities. Note, however, that the specific requirements are rarely specific about the kind of space information required and only occasionally include the accuracies required to make such information useful. The priorities are similarly general in nature (applying to broad subject areas); encompass only some of the specific requirements; and, because they are a simple rank ordering, do not reflect the relative importance of the several subject areas, much less relative importance within subject area. Thus, for example, there is no indication of whether subject area 1 is 10 times as important as subject area 2 or slightly more important.

As these requirements stand the collectors are being given carte blanche: the requirements are an essentially ungraded list of virtually everything. Consequently, what the collectors do will de facto establish the importance of the individual requirements.

Meaningful guidance could be provided by structuring the needs and specific requirements for space intelligence and assigning relative values to the elements of the resulting structure. Required accuracies and reporting times should be attached to the actual details to be collected.

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